



APPENDIX A GLOSSARY

Access: Ability to make convenient use of the transportation system.

Action strategy: A set of conceptual solutions representing a specific step to be taken to achieve the objectives identified in Washington’s Transportation Plan.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): This 1990 federal legislation mandates changes in building codes, transportation, and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities in projects involving federal dollars, including federally and non-federally funded transportation projects.

At-Grade: Refers to competing transportation systems that share the same plane. For example, rail and highways intersect where there is no tunnel or bridge.

Commute Trip Reduction (CTR): Legislation requiring major employers in nine counties in the state — with populations of 150,000 or more — to take measures to reduce the number of single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips and the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by their employees.

Concurrency: A term used in the Growth Management Act that describes the requirement that supporting infrastructure must be in place or “concurrent with the development” to accommodate transportation impacts, or a financial commitment is in place to provide the improvements or strategies within six years.

Congestion: A condition characterized by unstable traffic flows that prohibits movement on a transportation facility at optimal legal speeds. Recurrent congestion is caused by constant excess volume compared with capacity. Nonrecurring congestion is caused by actions such as special events and/or traffic incidents.

Corridor: In planning, a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets and highways and transit lines and routes.

Culvert: Any drainage or service structure under a roadway or guideway with a clear opening of 20 feet (6 meters) or less measured along the center of the roadway or guideway.

Daily Vehicle Delay (DVD): The sum of hourly delay values (for 24 hours) for all vehicles traveling on a typical day for both directions in one mile of roadway.

Deficiency: A condition that does not meet adopted policy criteria.

Freight and Goods Transportation System (FGTS): A statewide network and classification system of state highways, county roads, and city streets that carry freight. Routes are classified by total tonnages of freight carried per year.

T-1: Over 10 million tons

T-2: 4 million to 10 million

T-3: 300,000 to 4 million

T-4: 100,000 to 300,000

T-5: Over 20,000 in 60 days



Goal: In policy-making and planning, broad statements of directions in which planning or action is aimed; general value statements representing an ideal end that the community wishes to attain.

Grade Separation: A vertical separation of intersecting facilities (road, rail, etc.) by the provision of crossing structures. For example, a rail/highway intersection where there is a tunnel or a bridge.

Gray Notebook: A periodic report prepared by WSDOT staff to track a variety of performance and accountability measures for routine review by the Transportation Commission and others.

Greenhouse Gases: A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is the blocking by some atmospheric gases (notably carbon dioxide) of the radiation of heat from the surface of the Earth back into space, leading to the possibility of a worldwide rise in temperature.

Growth Management Act (GMA): Passed by the state legislature in 1990, and amended in 1991, GMA addresses the negative consequences of unprecedented population growth and suburban sprawl in Washington. The GMA requires all cities and counties in the state to do some planning and has more extensive requirements for the largest and fastest-growing counties and cities in the state. Its requirements include guaranteeing the consistency of transportation and capital facilities plans with land use plans.

High Capacity Transit (HCT): A public transit system, such as rail, that can accommodate large volumes of riders.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane: A highway lane for use only by carpools, vanpools and buses. HOV lanes are designated by a diamond (◇) traffic marking.

Impervious Surface: A hard surface that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil.

Intermodal: Refers to facilities where freight or passengers change modes (types) of transport. For example, at airports, freight and passengers make intermodal transfers between motorized vehicles and airplanes.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS): Generally refers to the application of advanced electronics and computer technology to automate highway and vehicle systems to enable more efficient and safer use of existing highways.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA): This 1991 legislation implemented broad changes in the way transportation decisions are made by emphasizing diversity and balance of modes and preservation of existing systems over construction of new facilities, especially roads. Also proposed was a series of social, environmental, and energy factors that must be considered in transportation planning, programming, and project selection (also see TEA-21).

Level of Service (LOS): A qualitative measure used to describe the performance of different transportation elements.





Local Needs: The needs for those city streets and county roads that are supported by state and local tax revenues and state grant programs.

Lowest Lifecycle Cost: In terms of highway pavement preservation, this is the point in a pavement's lifecycle where optimum pavement life has been achieved and the least cost to resurface is obtained. Pavements that have gone beyond this optimum point typically incur more costs to rehabilitate.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): An agency designated by a governor (or governors in multi-state areas) to administer the federally required transportation planning process for a metropolitan area. An MPO must be in place in every urbanized area with a population of over 50,000.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): A detailed long-range transportation plan that guides future regional investments and responds to legal mandates contained in ISTEA, the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, and the State of Washington's Growth Management Act.

Mobility: The ability of any individual to move about in a community, a region, or the state.

Mode: A form of transport. For example, buses and bicycles are both transportation modes.

Multimodal: Refers to a plan or program that accounts for the needs and/or trends of multiple modes.

Need: Solution and cost aligned to a WTP objective or action strategy.

Objective: A specific, desired outcome for the transportation system in Washington's Transportation Plan.

Outfall: A structured drainage of stormwater runoff from highways or intersecting streams.

Paratransit: Transit service that is publicly or privately operated, scheduled, or dispatched upon demand, providing "point-to-point" transit service. Normally used in specialized applications with user eligibility limitations (e.g., elderly and/or disabled) or where demand is not sufficient to support fixed-route service.

Park and Ride Lot: A parking facility for individuals to rendezvous for carpools, vanpools, or public transportation as a transfer of mode with their private automobile.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): A plan coordinating transportation planning efforts of all member jurisdictions, as required by all RTPOs receiving funding for regional planning under the Regional Transportation Plan Program of the GMA.

Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO): Voluntary organizations with representatives from local governments and regional transportation providers to coordinate transportation planning activities within a region. Authorized by the Growth Management Act of 1990.

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA): One of the agencies established by legislation that has the ability to provide High Capacity Transit.



Revised Code of Washington (RCW): Code enacted by the State of Washington and intended to embrace in a revised, consolidated, and codified form and arrangement all the laws of the state of a general and permanent nature.

Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV): A passenger car or truck carrying only one person (a driver).

State-Interest: The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by local jurisdictions, agencies, and private corporations and is of importance to the entire transportation system. The State-Interest systems' needs were identified through Regional Transportation Organizations (RTPO) in collaboration with local jurisdictions and agencies, and private corporations. These modes include Public Transportation, Freight and Intercity Passenger Rail, Marine Ports and Navigation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, and Aviation.

State-Owned: The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by the state. The State-Owned systems include state highways, Washington State Ferries (WSF), and state airports. The state also owns eight daily trains of the Amtrak *Cascades* passenger rail system. Amtrak is contracted to operate all twelve of the Amtrak *Cascades* trains. The needs for state-owned systems were identified by the systems in coordination with the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations.

Stormwater: That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, channels, or pipes into a defined surface water body or infiltration facility.

Telecommuting: The substitution of electronic or telephone systems for traditional forms of transportation. A person that uses a personal computer at their home or at a neighborhood workstation, that is linked by a modem or facsimile machine to their work place or coworkers, is telecommuting when they can substitute a journey to work electronically. This can also apply to other travel substitutions, including teleconference, telemedicine, etc.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): Measures designed to reduce the number of single-occupant-vehicle (SOV) trips during the peak traffic period. Measures include person-trip reduction strategies, which eliminate trips completely, vehicle-trip reduction strategies that accommodate person trips in fewer vehicles, and peak-period modification strategies that move trips out of the most congested periods.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21): Enacted July 22, 1998, TEA-21 authorizes highway, highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs for the next 6 years. TEA-21 builds on the initiatives established in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), which was the last major authorizing legislation for surface transportation. This new Act combines the continuation and improvement of current programs with new initiatives to meet the challenges of improving safety as traffic continues to increase at record levels, protecting and enhancing communities and the natural environment as we provide transportation, and advancing America's economic growth and competitiveness domestically and internationally through efficient and flexible transportation.





Transportation Facilities and Services of Statewide Significance (TFSSS): Major component of 1998 legislation, RCW 47.06.140, relating to transportation and growth management planning. It declares that certain transportation facilities and services are of statewide significance because they provide and support transportation functions that promote and maintain significant statewide travel and economic linkages.

Transportation Management Area (TMA): Under ISTEA, any urban area over 200,000 population is automatically a TMA, which subjects it to additional planning requirements but also entitles it to funds earmarked for large urbanized areas.

Travel Delay Methodology: A program developed by WSDOT as a performance measure tool to determine current and future 24-hour congestion conditions on all state highways. It is used to identify capacity-deficient sections of highways for inclusion in the State Highway System Plan list of needs.

Travel Rate Index (TRI): A comparison of the time needed to get from one point to another with and without congestion. If the TRI equals 1.0, then the vehicle is traveling at the posted speed limit and not experiencing delay. If the TRI equals 2.0, then congestion is making the trip take twice as long.

Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU): A common denominator for varying lengths of containers used in maritime transportation.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): A measure of highway system use reflecting the number of miles traveled over a highway section, route or system. VMT is calculated by multiplying the total highway section length by the total number of vehicles that have traveled over that section within a given time.

Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC): The seven-member board appointed by the Governor that oversees WSDOT.

Watershed: An area of land surface defined by a topographic divide that collects precipitation into a stream or river. Sometimes referred to as a drainage basin.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

